GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:350
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Centre of Excellence for Fruits and Vegetables
Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has prepared a scheme for commercialisation of centres of excellence for fruits and vegetables to improve economic conditions of farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the mandis across the country has been provided with internet connectivity;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has signed any agreement with the Government of Israel for establishing a centre of excellence for fruits in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the Indian farmers are likely to be benefited by this agreement?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) which includes the component of Centre of Excellence. The Centre of Excellence can be established for different horticulture crops to serve as demonstration and training centres as well as source of planting material for fruits and vegetables. For establishment of these centres in public sector 100% assistance to the maximum cost of Rs.10.00 crore per centre is available. These centres of Excellences can be established through bi-lateral co-operation also.

(c) & (d): Under Market Research and Information Network (MRIN) scheme of Department, data on arrivals and prices of notified agriculture produce in wholesale regulated markets is disseminated though ag-mark net portal. Under the scheme, since inception till end of XI Plan Internet connectivity was provided to 3245 APMC/Centres however, under the XII Plan the APMCs have to make their own arrangements. As on date of the total 6746 mandis data on arrival and prices of agriculture commodities is being reported by more than 2700 APMC markets.
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Further, under the National Agriculture Market (NAM) scheme it is proposed to integrated 585 regulated markets across the country to a common e-platform for online trading of notified agri-commodities by March, 2018. Apart from hosting the NAM software on NIC Cloud, the Government will provide the software free of cost and a grant of up to Rs.30 lakhs per mandi for hardware including Internet connectivity. The NAM Portal has been launched on 14.04.2016 in 21 mandis of 08 States for online trading across the country for trading in 25 commodities.

(e) & (f): An Indo-Israel agriculture work plan was signed in 2006 wherein a number of areas for cooperation were identified. As part of this work plan, an Indo − Israel Agriculture Action Plan was initiated during 2008-10 which was first extended for implementation till 2015 and subsequently till 2018. Under this Action Plan technology is being transferred through visits of Israeli experts to India, training of Indian field officers in Israel and establishment of Centres of Excellence for various crops like fruits, vegetables and flowers in different states. These Centres of Excellence act as demonstration and training centres for field staff and farmers as well as source of planting material of fruits and vegetables for the benefit of farmers.

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